

THE PACIFIC COMMERCIAL ADVERTISER

WALTER G. SMITH - EDITOR

THURSDAY : : DECEMBER 24

A MUNICIPAL SCHEME.

Has the habit of doing public work in secret at Washington become so deeply lodged in the Hawaiian political system as to lead any influential persons to endeavor, through a Congressional enactment, to secure for Honolulu and Hilo municipal legislation on the sly which failed to secure enactment here last winter in the open?

The appearances are that way. It is known that the old municipal bill has gone to Washington; it is reported that the thing was sent for with a view of inducing Congress to burden the taxpayers here with the expense of an eighth government, there now being an arrangement for seven where one was ample a year ago. In the seven are included the "leper county" controlled by the Board of Health. A municipal government for Honolulu would make eight; one for Hilo nine, and after that the professional job-chasers will probably shriek for townships. Mark Twain once said that the Hawaiian government was the machinery of an ocean steamship packed in a sardine box; but we are now proposing to force in the machinery of a whole fleet.

The genesis of the thing is greed; the excuse is "Americanism." But when the United States was young and sparsely settled it did not multiply governments; it took inhabited areas in the State of New York, for example, as large as Hawaii, and attached them to fairly populous counties, which were carried on with as few office-holders as possible. Then when the population grew into hundreds of thousands, more counties were set off. Nothing was forced; the county was a growth, not a graft, and as for municipalities they were not heard of in any place of small white population. Here we are urged, on the basis of a smaller body of electors than they have in a city of the third class in New York, to pay for nine governments, with a chance of getting still more. Such a proposition is not what America stood for when it had a similar need with Hawaii to simplify government and keep down expenses; and if it stands for it now it is because the task of governing its vast population requires a minute subdivision of responsibility. Good government on the populous mainland requires State, county, municipal, ward, township and school district administration; here five men at the capitol acting as a commission or in any other controlling capacity could give Hawaii all the government it needs and all it can afford to pay for. For several years this method has worked well in the Philippines; and it would work well here. But we won't get it or try to get it; we must devote ourselves instead to the creation of as complicated a system of government, and a much more costly one proportionately to the number of inhabitants, as suffices for the Empire State with about 6,000,000 of white inhabitants.

The Board of Public Works has been requested in a communication signed by Judge Sanford B. Dole, Samuel Parker, H. Holmes and Henry E. Highton, to place three lights on the road winding around Diamond Head on the Waikiki side of the terminus of the Rapid Transit line. The necessity for this meager provision for the numerous residents in that neighborhood is and has so long been obvious that it is surprising that the application is necessary. The road is so utterly dark at night, as almost to shut off these residents from any communication with Honolulu. Many hospitalities to visiting tourists have to be foregone, on account of the difficulty of ingress and egress. Gentlemen and ladies can scarcely be invited to dine or spend evenings in places which are inaccessible except through thick dust and equally thick blackness. The fact is that this important part of our suburbs has been entirely disregarded and unprotected, and business men and their families, who like the pure air and the fine scenic effects about Diamond Head, and who have spent many thousands of dollars in improvements, might as well live on the mountains beyond Tantalus. The absence of lights is most unjust to citizens and noticeable by strangers.

Rumors are arriving here of many deaths among the repatriated Gilbertese, but no facts are known. When the Isleworth left these waters, with the Gilbertese on board, the Advertiser made arrangements for a letter about the trip and the reception of the exiles. An officer of the Isleworth was to write an account and be well paid for it. If he fulfills his contract, the next mail from the South Seas ought to bring full particulars.

The Bulletin would like to throw the blame of the Jones verdict on the Attorney General to keep people from looking towards the bench. When Gear ruled out the dying statement of Mrs. Parmenter and instructed the jury to see suggestively that none of them saw any outlet but acquittal, the mischief was done. The Success to Crime policy won as it had done so many times before.

ENGLAND'S ASIATIC PERIL.

Great Britain is strangely supine in the matter of the Russian conquest of Manchuria and Korea. Though committed on the northern border of India to the doctrine of the buffer State, she does not seem to realize the value to her Indian possessions of maintaining in China a Territorial status quo which will keep Russia from advancing to the regions held by the latter's French allies on the Eastern borders of India. For the greater part of India, China is the real buffer State; and it is becoming plain that Russia means to dominate the whole of that empire and that her ultimate aim may be to rule all Asia, from the Arctic ocean to Colombo and from Behring Strait to the Red Sea and the Mediterranean.

In achieving such a conquest the ownership of China would prove to be a factor of enormous value. One must never forget, in summing up the gains to Russia, the potential military might of the Chinese people. Lord Wolseley has more than once pointed out the "somber strength" of China; the certainty that the yellow race, when properly drilled and disciplined, will furnish multitudes of incomparable soldiers, obedient, fatalistic, putting small value upon life and physically virile and tireless. Owning China, the Czar could organize a million of its young men into an army as warlike as that which was led by Genghis or Kublai in the old days of Mongol glory; and if he should send that army into India under the pretext of freeing its people from the British yoke, all the King's horses and all the King's men might not be able to prevail against them.

This is why the supineness of Great Britain is so inexplicable. Joined with Japan she could at least save China and Korea if not Manchuria; holding aloof from that alliance, which she once half-entered, Great Britain leaves Russia to play a game which is to be ultimately directed against herself.

BONDS FOR COUNTY OFFICERS.

From all indications millionaires alone will be eligible to the position of County Assessor.—Bulletin.

The Bulletin and Independent attack on the Supervisors for fixing the Home Rule Assessor's bond as provided by law might almost be designated as suspicious. The Independent adds to the Bulletin's cry about making the office one which only a millionaire can hold, that as there was no county this year, the assessor's bond should not be more than \$30,000. The law was intended as a protection to the people, not as a loophole through which a possible embezzler might escape. The fact that the County Act refers the "greatest amount of money shown by the books of the county to have been in the hands of the officer at one time during the preceding year," means just what it says. But as the county was not in existence the past year, the officer who performed the same duties for the Territory is considered. As much as \$300,000 passed through the hands of Oahu's assessor in one day during this year and the county assessor will handle just as much money. Any other construction of the law is subterfuge.

The law works a hardship on no honest man however suspicious it may be of the spotted skirt variety. The assessor who is trustworthy will have no trouble in getting a bond. Surety companies are doing business in Hawaii for that purpose. And the county pays the bill.

If the sheriff does not care to stop saloon prizefights, the officers of the fleet would commend themselves by refusing to let their men participate in them.

PUNAHOU WANT TO PLAY H. A. C.'S

The Punahou Athletic Club, at a meeting held at the Y. M. C. A. last night, voted to play off the game with the H. A. C.'s, if arrangements could be made as to date and length of halves.

This action on the part of the Punahou Athletic Club was the result of a long discussion and showed a most sportsmanlike attitude on their part. The sacrifices on the part of the men to get into any sort of condition for another game will be great, and only the very evident desire of the H. A. C.'s and a similar one on the part of the public for another game induced them to consent.

The Punahou ask to have the date of the game, January 23, and the halves twenty minutes. For business reasons it will be impossible for the men to begin training again before the first of the year and the time asked for will most certainly not be sufficient to get the team in as good condition as they were before and it is doubtful if they could get in a fit condition to play even the twenty minute halves asked.

The coach of the H. A. C. team has stated that he most certainly does not wish to play his team against any but Punahou's strongest team and if he voices the sentiment of the team they will doubtless be willing to accept Punahou's proposition.

Half hourly cars up the Heights connect with Rapid Transit.

THE STARBUCKS A DRAMATIC TREAT

"The Starbuck's" last night considerably enhanced the reputation of the company especially, coming as it did, after the rapid, unhinged thing that Clyde Fitch calls a play, the Cowboy and the Lady. Nat Goodwin apparently needed a play, Fitch needed the money and some one suggested the title which has nothing to do with the play, neither the hero being a cowboy or the heroine a lady.

In the Starbuck's however James Neill and Edythe Chapman scored both a surprise, both appearing as elderly folk, and a distinct success. Ople Read has struck the same vein of genuine and natural humor as Denman Thompson in the Old Homestead. The Tennessee life and character was truly portrayed and poetically drawn while the actors fell in with the spirit of the author.

James Neill as Jasper Starbuck was natural and dexterously fitted himself into the quiet role. George Bloomquist, a young actor who possesses a strong vein of genius, but a talent seldom given or finding an opportunity to shine, as barefooted, stammering Mose Blake, was excellent, achieving the actor's hardest possibility in making a grotesque character natural. Burton as Spencer was, of course, artistic, he and Bloomquist taking the honors of the play.

Miss Chapman proved her versatility as Margaret Starbuck and her keen intuition of humanism that aids her to invest her roles with realism. Donald Bowles and Sheldon Lewis as Tom Elliott and the Rev. Jim S. Starbuck were excellent. Morris as Lige, the blackmailer, was very good. Lillian Andrews as an old black mammy and Miss Kellar as Lou Starbuck maintained the excellent standard of the players. The Starbuck's as a performance is first class.

Tonight the dainty Bachelor's Romance by Martha Morton, will be played. To many minds the title role is James Neill's greatest success and the company has made its most artistic presentations in this beautifully balanced play.

Tomorrow, Christmas, the matinee performance proceeds to the Actor's Consumptive Home as a contribution for the local lodge of Elks, the Neills giving their services and Manager Cohen his expenses. "The Christian" is the bill selected and will be repeated at night.

Vaudeville will reign on Saturday in Hoyt's "Contented Woman." Besides the efforts of the company, clever merrymen from the fleet, including a wonderful club and lamp swinger, will aid the performance.

BOOKS READY FOR COUNTIES

Auditor Fisher has now on hand all the books and blanks needed by the counties with which to begin business on the first Monday in the new year. The first batch of the county books will be sent to East Hawaii on tomorrow's steamer and by Tuesday all of the books needed by the counties will have been distributed.

The Legislature appropriated \$12,500 for the purchase of books and blanks, but the Auditor has required less than half the sum to do the work. A number of coast firms had representatives in Honolulu a few months ago, trying to get these contracts, but by distributing the work among the various offices in the city, the Auditor was able to have the work done under his immediate supervision and at reasonable figures.

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By order of Board of Directors.
A. M. WEBSTER, Treasurer.
Honolulu, Dec. 22, 1903. 6570

MEETING NOTICE.

HAWAIIAN FERTILIZER CO., LTD.
A special meeting of the stockholders of the Hawaiian Fertilizer Company, Ltd., will be held on Tuesday afternoon, the 29th inst., at 3 p. m., at the offices of the Hawaiian Trust Co., Ltd.
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